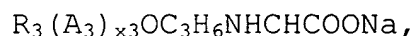


where R_2 has the same meaning as in claim 2, to obtain an aspartate of the formula III, or

- ii) the monosodium salt of maleic acid is reacted with an ether amine of the formula



where R_3 , A_3 and x_3 have the meanings mentioned in claim 11 to obtain an intermediate of the formula



which intermediate is further reacted with $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})\text{H}$ or CH_3Cl and with NaOH to obtain a derivative of formula IV and V, respectively.

12. (new) The froth flotation process of claim 3 wherein A_1 and A_3 is ethyleneoxy and x_1 and x_3 are each independently selected from a number of from 1-4.

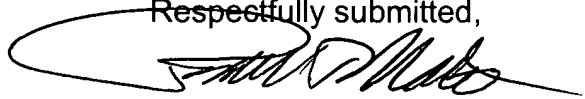
13. (new) The froth flotation process of claim 2 wherein R^{II} is methyl, hydroxyethyl or hydroxypropyl.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend the claims in accordance with the New Amendment Format announced in the pre-OG notice dated January 31, 2003. The amendments herein were implemented in order to place the claims in ideal condition for U.S. prosecution. No new matter was added.

Entry of the subject amendments prior to the initial examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph J. Mancini', written over a horizontal line.

Ralph J. Mancini
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,054

Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept.
7 Livingstone Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-3408
(914) 674-5465